



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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Sacramento
California 95814

BILL LEONARD
Member, BOE
Second District

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEONARD REMINDS TAX AMNESTY PARTICIPANTS
OF FINAL PROGRAM DEADLINES**

Bill Leonard, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today reminded California taxpayers participating in the Tax Amnesty program of the May 31, 2005 deadline to pay the tax and interest in full or enter into an installment payment agreement. May 31 is also the final day to file any necessary returns for the Amnesty program.

The BOE is mailing letters to all program participants with instructions for those who still need to meet some of the program's requirements. The Amnesty program allows taxpayers to enter into installment payment agreements as long as the tax and interest is paid in full by June 30, 2006. The deadline to apply for amnesty passed on March 31, 2005.

The BOE has received over 11,400 Amnesty applications, and \$165 million in Amnesty payments.

The BOE's Amnesty program applies to sales and use taxes for tax reporting periods that began in years 2002 or earlier. Taxpayers can visit www.boe.ca.gov for more information on the program.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected to his first term as Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects more than \$44 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It also acts as the appellate body for business tax appeals, franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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